

EXECUTIVE ORDER

12-07

Department of Public Safety

WHEREAS, Section 413 of the Charter of Harford County, Maryland, provides that the County Executive may propose changes in the organization of the Executive Branch, including the powers and duties among agencies; and

WHEREAS, Section 811(j) of the Charter of Harford County, Maryland, defines “agency” as including all offices, departments, institutions, boards, commissions and corporations which receive or disburse County funds; and

WHEREAS, Harford County, Maryland has a long and proud history of volunteer fire service and is currently served by twelve fire companies whose members devote countless hours each year to training, fundraising, fire suppression and emergency medical services to serve and protect the citizens of Harford County; and

WHEREAS, Harford County has enjoyed tremendous growth and change in recent years resulting in increased demands upon its public safety organizations with extensive training requirements and increasing calls for emergency services resulting in the creation of a foundation and several individual volunteer companies that employ paid personnel to meet the increased demand for emergency services; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has determined that it is in the best interest of the County to restructure and redefine the system and coordinate all aspects of the County’s Public Safety duties and responsibilities in order to better delineate the functions of those operations and enhance the services available to protect the citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE,

Section 1. Be it Ordered by the County Executive of Harford County, Maryland, that the new Article IX, heading “Department of Public Safety”, generally, be, and it is hereby, added to Chapter 16, heading “Departments”, all of the Harford County Code, as amended, to read as follows:

CHAPTER 16. DEPARTMENTS

ARTICLE IX. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

§ 16-28. Department of Public Safety established; appointment, qualifications and responsibilities of Director.

- A. There is hereby created the Department of Public Safety pursuant to Sections 402 and 413 of the Charter of Harford County, Maryland, which shall be in the Executive Branch of the county government.
- B. The Department shall be administered by a Director of Public Safety. The Director shall have comprehensive knowledge of fire prevention and suppression, rescue services, emergency medical services, communications and other aspects of public safety. The Director shall have had at least 5 years of managerial experience in fire or public safety service. The Director shall be appointed solely on the basis of qualifications for the duties and responsibilities of the office. The Director shall be a resident of Harford County, shall be appointed by the County Executive, confirmed by the County Council and serve at the pleasure of the County Executive.
- C. The Department of Public Safety shall be responsible for the administration of the affairs of the County in:
 - (1) Fire/Rescue protection, prevention, suppression, training and quality assurance.
 - (2) Emergency medical services delivery, training and quality assurance.
 - (3) Volunteer fire company funding, support and coordination.
 - (4) All other aspects of Public Safety.

§ 16-29. Powers, duties and functions of the Department of Public Safety.

- A. The Department of Public Safety shall be responsible for the coordination, command, control and the oversight of the fire and emergency service operations, services and other support organizations to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Harford County.
- B. The Director shall have such other and further duties as may be provided for from time to time by direct order of the County Executive or by legislative act of the Council, not inconsistent with this Act.

Section 2. And Be It Further Ordered, that if any provision or provisions of this order, or the particular application thereof, shall be held to be invalid, the remaining provisions and their application shall not be affected thereby. Should any provision hereof be inconsistent with any law, such provision shall be invalid; but the remaining provisions and their application shall not be affected thereby.

Section 3. And Be It Further Ordered, that this order shall become effective 60 calendar days after submission to the County Council of Harford County, unless the County Council of Harford County disapproves this order pursuant to Section 413 of the Charter of Harford County, Maryland.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of Harford County to be affixed, this 8th day of November, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twelve.

ATTEST:



LORI A. PIETROWSKI



DAVID R. CRAIG
Harford County Executive